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Media Release

November 3, 2010

Attorney General's Office sponsors community shredding events this November

Wilmington – The Attorney General's Office is sponsoring free "Community Shred Days" in Milford and Wilmington this month in an ongoing effort to prevent identity theft. Each event features on-site document shredding, and staff from the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Unit will be on-hand to provide information and answer questions about identify theft and consumer fraud. Consumers may bring up to three file-sized boxes of documents; emptied boxes will be returned immediately.

"Shredding documents with personal identifying information is one proactive measure consumers can take to protect themselves from identity theft," Attorney General Beau Biden said. "I invite all Delawareans to take advantage of our free shredding service, and to contact us to learn more about guarding against identity theft and fraud."

In a related announcement, Biden's office today warned of a new "smishing" scam in which consumers are asked to respond to a cell phone text message stating there is a problem with their bank account. However, a toll-free number provided actually connects consumers with scammers who ask for personal information for illicit purposes. That Consumer Alert warning follows on the next page.

In addition to e-mail and texting scams, identity thieves use a variety of methods to obtain victims' personal information, including rummaging through trash for bank statements, bills, and other documents. Consumers can protect themselves by shredding these documents before discarding them.

Each shredding event takes place from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Location</u>
Saturday, November 6	Sussex	Milford Plaza Shopping Center 654 N. DuPont Highway Milford, DE 19963
Saturday, November 20	New Castle	Frawley Stadium parking lot 801 Shipyard Drive, Wilmington

Learn more about protecting yourself from identity theft by calling the Attorney General's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-220-5424 or visiting www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/consumers.

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